NUMB. CXLV.

The SPECTATOR.

Stultitiam patiuntur opes —— Hor.

Thurſday, Auguſt 16. 1711.

If the following Enormities are not amended upon the firſt Mention, I deſire further Notice from my Correſpondents.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

I Am obliged to you for your Diſcourſe the other Day upon frivolous Diſputants, who with great Warmth, and Enumeration of many Circumſtances and Authorities, undertake to prove Matters which no Body living denies. You cannot employ your Pen more uſefully than in adjuſting the Laws of Diſputation in Coffee-houſes and accidental Companies, as well as in more formal Debates. Among many other things which your own Experience muſt ſuggeſt to you, it will be very obliging if you pleaſe to take Notice of Wagerers. I will not here repeat what *Hudibras* ſays of ſuch Diſputants, which is ſo true, that it is almoſt Proverbial; but ſhall only acquaint you with a Set of young Fellows of the Inns of Court, whoſe Fathers have provided for them ſo plentifully, that they need not be very anxious to get Law into their Heads for the Service of their Country at the Bar; but are of thoſe who are ſent (as the Phraſe of Parents is) to the *Temple* to know how to keep their own. One of theſe Gentlemen is very loud and captious at a Coffee-houſe which I frequent, and being in his Nature troubled with an Humour of Contradiction, though withal exceſſive Ignorant, he has found a way to indulge this Temper, go on in Idleneſs and Ignorance, and yet ſtill give himſelf the Air of a very learned and knowing Man by the Strength of his Pocket. The Misfortune of the thing is, I have, as it happens ſometimes, a greater Stock of Learning than of Mony. The Gentleman I am ſpeaking of, takes Advantage of the Narrowneſs of my Circumſtances in ſuch a manner, that he has read all that I can pretend to, and runs me down with ſuch a poſitive Air, and with ſuch powerful Arguments, that from a very Learned Perſon I am thought a mere Pretender. Not long ago I was relating that I 'had read ſuch a Paſſage in *Tacitus*, up ſtarts my 'young Gentleman in a full Company, and pulling 'out his Purſe offered to lay me ten Guineas, to be 'ſtaked immediately in that Gentleman's Hands, '(pointing to one ſmoaking at another Table) that 'I was utterly miſtaken. I was Dumb for want of 'ten Guineas; he went on unmercifully to Triumph 'over my Ignorance how to take him up, and told 'the whole Room he had read *Tacitus* twenty times 'over, and ſuch a remarkable Incident as that could 'not eſcape him. He has at this time three conſiderable Wagers depending between him and ſome 'of his Companions, who are rich enough to hold 'an Argument with him. He has five Guineas upon Queſtions in Geography, two that the *Iſle of Wight* is a Peninſula, and three Guineas to one 'that the World is round. We have a Gentleman 'comes to our Coffee-houſe who deals mightily in 'Antique Scandal, my Diſputant has laid him twenty Pieces upon a Point of Hiſtory, to wit, that '*Cæſar* never lay with *Cato*'s Siſter, as is ſcandalouſly reported by ſome People.

'There are ſeveral of this ſort of Fellows in 'Town, who Wager themſelves into Stateſmen, 'Hiſtorians, Geographers, Mathematicians, and e'very other Art, when the Perſons with whom 'they talk have not Wealth equal to their Learn'ing. I beg of you to prevent, in theſe Young'ſters, this Compendious Way to Wiſdom, which 'coſts other People ſo much Time and Pains, and 'you will oblige

Your Humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *Coffee-houſe near the* Temple, *Aug.* 12, 1711.

'HERE's a Young Gentleman that ſings Opera-Tunes, or Whiſtles in a full Houſe. Pray 'let him know that he has no Right to act here as if 'he were in an empty Room. Be pleaſed to divide 'the Spaces of a Publick Room, and certifie Whiſt'lers, Singers and Common Orators, that are heard

'further

'further than their Portion of the Rooms comes, 'that the Law is open, and that there is an E-'quity which will relieve us from such as inter-'rupt us in our Lawful Discourse, as much as a-'gainst such as stop us on the Road. I take these 'Persons, Mr. SPECTATOR, to be such Trespas-'sers as the Officer in your Stage Coach, and am 'of the same Sentiment with Councellor *Ephraim*. 'It is true the Young Man is rich, and, as the Vul-'gar say, need not care for any Body; but sure that 'is no Authority for him to go whistle where he 'pleases.

I am, SIR,

Your Most Humble Servant.

P. S. 'I have Chambers in the *Temple*, and here 'are Students that learn upon the Hautboy, pray 'desire the Benchers that all Lawyers who are Pro-'ficients in Wind-Musick may lodge to the *Thames*.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'WE are a Company of Young Women who pass our Time very much together, and ob-'liged by the Mercenary Humour of the Men to 'be as Mercenarily inclined as they are. There vi-'sits among us an old Batchelor whom each of us 'has a Mind to. The Fellow is rich, and knows he 'may have any of us, therefore is particular to none, 'but excessively ill-bred. His Pleasantry consists in 'Romping, he snatches Kisses by surprise, puts his 'Hand in our Necks, tears our Fans, robs us 'of Ribbons, forces Letters out of our Hands, 'looks into any of our Papers, and a thousand o-'ther Rudenesses. Now what I'll desire of you is 'to acquaint him, by Printing this, that if he does 'not marry one of us very suddenly, we have all 'agreed, the next time he pretends to be merry, to 'affront him, and use him like a Clown as he is. In-'the Name of the Sisterhood I take my leave of 'you, and am, as they all are,

Your Constant Reader,

and Well-wisher.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I And several others of your Female Readers, have conformed our selves to your Rules, even to 'our very Dress. There is not one of us but has 'reduced our outward Petticoat to its ancient Si-'zable Circumference, tho' indeed we retain still a 'Quilted one underneath, which makes us not alto-'gether unconformable to the Fashion, but 'tis on 'Condition, Mr. SPECTATOR extends not his 'Censure so far. But we find you Men secretly 'approve our Practice, by imitating our Piramidi-'cal Form. The Skirt of your fashionable Coats 'forms as large a Circumference as our Petticoats; 'as these are set out with Whalebone, so are 'those with Wire, to encrease and sustain the Bunch 'of Fold that hangs down on each side; and the 'Hat, I perceive, is decreased in just Proportion to 'our Head-dresses. We make a regular Figure, 'but I defy your Mathematicks to give Name to 'the Form you appear in. Your Architecture is 'mere *Gothick*, and betrays a worse Genius than 'ours; therefore if you are partial to your own 'Sex, I shall be less than I am now

Your Humble Servant.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of July, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Charing Cross; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Treguney, near Essex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where also may be had those for the Months of March, April, May and June.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just Publish'd,

An Account of the first Voyages and Discoveries made by the Spaniards in America, with their unparallel'd Cruelty to the Indians, in destroying above 40 Millions of People. Written by Bartholomew de las Casas, Bishop of Chiapa, a Spaniard, who was an Eye-witness of their Cruelties; and translated by Mr. Stennet. Illustrated with Cuts. Price 3 s. 6 d. The History of Flanders, from its first Establishment as a Sovereignty, to the Death of the last King of Spain. With a general Survey and exact Map of the Country, done by Mr. Moll, which Exhibits the Seat of the War in those Parts. Printed for Both Sold by J. Darby in Bartholomew-Close.

This Day is Publish'd,

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Just Publish'd very neat and Correct Editions of the following Books, viz.

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The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Trees and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. To which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the most Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Translation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Description and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with several Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our English Climate. By George London and Henry Wise. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-Street in the Strand.

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